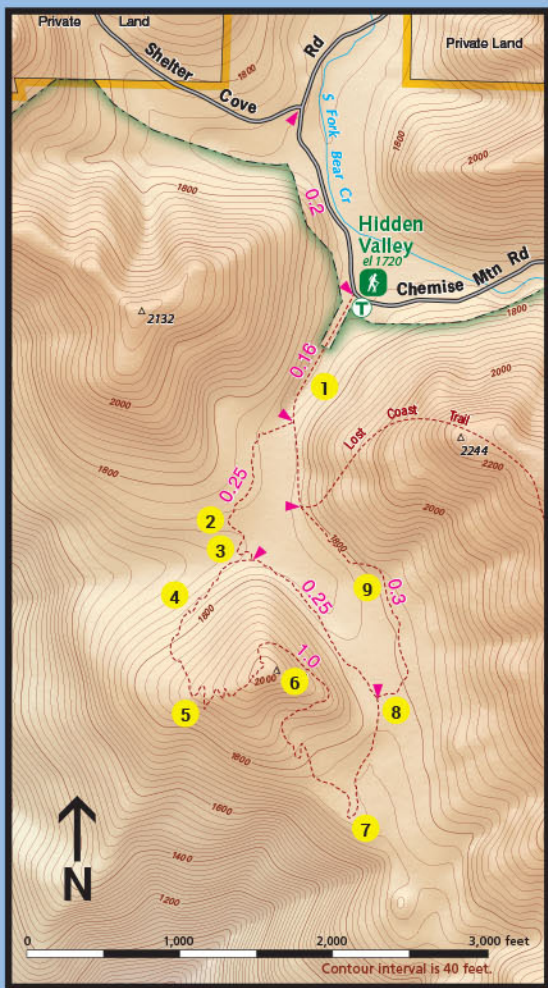




**HI, I'M PETEY, THE PILEATED WOODPECKER!
WELCOME TO HIDDEN VALLEY!**

HOW TO QUEST:

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues **1** (*italicized*) between the stops (**numbered**) and discover the natural and cultural treasures of this Hidden Valley Quest. At your final destination you will find your Quest Clue. This is the “key” to your prize (see the “Now that you’ve finished your quest” section for your next step)! Have fun, be safe, and stay on marked trails on your adventure.



HIDDEN VALLEY QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:

Start: at the parking area just off Chemise Mountain Road.

Contact: (707)986-5400

www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange

Quest Trail Name: Hidden Valley Interpretive Trail

Total Length: about 2 miles/about 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate with some uphill and downhill stretches. Trail surface varies between dirt and gravel with seasonal stream crossings.

Driving Directions: The King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) is located about 230 miles north of San Francisco and 60 miles south of Eureka.

All roads leading to the King Range NCA are narrow, steep and winding. Allow plenty of time between destinations, have a full tank of gas, and **BE ALERT TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC THAT MAY BE DRIVING TOO FAST AND IN YOUR LANE.**

Directional signs mark all major intersections in the King Range NCA giving the road name and distances to primary recreation sites.

From the NORTH: U.S. 101 to Redway/Garberville exit.

From the SOUTH: U.S. 101 to the Redway/Garberville exit.

Head west on Briceland Road towards Shelter Cove. Drive approximately 12 miles to the Whitethorn Junction where the road will fork. At the Whitethorn Junction, Briceland Road goes to the left and Shelter Cove Road goes to the right. Go to the right and follow Shelter Cove Road for 5.7 miles and turn left/south on Chemise Mountain Road (paved road). Hidden Valley Trailhead will be a 1/4 of mile down the road on the right.

NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR QUEST:

Return to the BLM King Range Office (768 Shelter Cove Road, Whitethorn, open 8:00am–4:30pm). There you will display your Quest Clue and claim your prize. Or you can go to the Inn of the Lost Coast in Shelter Cove at 205 Wave Drive to claim your prize. You can also log on to the Redwood EdVentures website (below) and we'll mail your prize to you.

WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT QUEST TAKE YOU?

The journey you've just completed is one of many Redwood EdVentures Quests. Find Quest locations and download free copies at www.redwood-edventures.org. Teachers, students, and families can also explore hundreds of outdoor places and educational opportunities on the beautiful Redwood Coast. Find out why nature is closer than you think!



Developed in collaboration with the Mattole Restoration Council along with Whale Gulch and Whitethorn School students through a grant provided by the Shelter Cove Property Owners Association.

Revised May 2016

REDWOOD EDVENTURES QUEST

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



HIDDEN VALLEY INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF HIDDEN VALLEY!

1 Check clues against the map using the corresponding yellow numbers.

To Begin this Quest: Walk from the parking area through the logs that zig and zag and then along the path until you come to the second rock-lined open drainage across the trail.

1 The riparian zone is a stretch of land along a river or creek lined with dirt or sand. You'll find many plants growing all around. Their roots hold the earth and stabilize ground. Most of these plants only grow around water. Look to your left and see the red alder.



2 Follow the path until the trees open up and there's a fork in the trail. Take the right fork and you will see douglas iris plants on each side of the trail. Enter into the trees again. Stay on this trail until you come to the leaning madrone tree at the edge of the meadow that points towards the mossy oak.

2 In the wide open meadow munching on sedge, you may see the elk, with some in their beds. If the elk are in this place, use "rule of thumb" to give them some space.

Rule of Thumb: If your extended thumb is too small to block the view of an animal then you're too close.



3 Follow the trail west into the trees. Go downhill to the stone steps and you've arrived at your next stop.

3 Listen to this babbling creek, it's got stories to tell so let's hear it speak: "I'm part of the water cycle that fuels all creation, — Evaporation, Condensation, and Precipitation. Every drop that makes up me, Goes from stage to stage on its own journey: From cloud to rain to creek to sea, Evaporation sets each droplet free."

4 Take a big step to cross the creek and walk up the hill on the stone steps. The trail zig zags right, left, right. Go through the trees on each side as the trail meanders along about a fourth of a mile uphill. Keep going, you are almost there! Soon on the left there will be a standing dead tree with no bark and full of holes.

Beware! Poison Oak is found off and on the trail in this area year round ... spring, summer, fall and winter!



4 This tree you see had a great fright, When it was struck by lightning in the dark of night. A large 1970s wildfire burned the land. What's left of the tree is this snag that stands. Snags may look useless and old. But to ecosystems they're good as gold. They offer shelter; they're stuffed with food. There are tons of grubs just under the wood. Be very quiet and you might hear The rat-a-tat sound of woodpecker.



5 Continue along the trail. You'll pass through an area where the sun peaks through the trees and shines on the trail, which then goes up to the right. You'll enter a Madrone forest where the tree's bark is reddish-brown and peeling. Continue on the trail until you reach an overlook of the ocean with a large Madrone tree.

5 Look toward the ocean, as you stand under the madrone. You may see a whale at play in its home! Check out the bark — the "skin" of this tree. It peels off and leaves the trunk smooth as a knee! Like snakes shed their skins, this tree does the same — It sloughs bugs and parasites — a most clever game!

6 Turn around and go up the hill, with every turn your legs will burn. For your next stop, a beautiful view awaits you at the top, where you can look down to see the valley floor and across to the next hillside.

6 This trail's been cut right straight through The manzanita, and here's a clue: What does manzanita remind you of? Hmm ... how about madrone? A tree we love! And how 'bout those weird fir half trees? Why are they missing their branches on the east? The King Range is one of the only spots Where you'll see wind-blown half trees along ridgetops.



7 Now it's time to go down the hill and along the trail. Look to your right and notice the trees, shrubs and plants growing up the hillside. Go approximately half a mile. Keep going down the trail and stop when you see a pile of sticks in between some skinny trees on your left, and an ocean view on your right.

7 A wood rat's nest is a place to rest; A perfect home for all kinds of guests. Snakes and beetles, lizards and rats... If you look up close, you might even see gnats! Skunks and owls feast on these rats. If they eat enough, they'll get real fat! This cool stick nest was pretty big. It's made of tan oak leaves and twigs. There are lots of little rooms inside — Bedrooms, a pantry, and places to hide.



8 Go past the woodrat nest and to the left, walk downhill through the forest. Soon you'll emerge from the trees into a small meadow and if you shout you'll hear your echo! Keep walking and you'll soon be back in the woods. After a short while, you'll come to an open field with large old leaning trees and tall grasses. Go to the right along the edge of the meadow. Walk along the trail to where some trees are laying down. Stop along the row of trees planted by old homesteaders and one has fallen.

8 As you walked from the woodrat's nest to here Keep in mind that this once was clear. Meadows used to thrive and grow, Thanks to fires, we now know. Grasslands now are all too rare Just 10% left; it's just not fair. But restoration groups are doing good — Helping grasslands by removing bushes and wood.

9 Walk along the path through the meadow. You will pass by a large solitary apple tree. Cross through the wet area where the water flows through the meadow. Continue northeast until you find yourself surrounded by old apple trees with iris and ferns growing all around. Once you have reached the orchard, you've arrived at your next stop.

9 This hundred year old apple orchard is the legacy Of the homestead efforts of Frank McKee. These apple trees once stood alone in the field Year after year they gave a great yield. Check out their trunks and the scratches from bears, Who still eat the apples and take their fair share.



Now we come to the final clue: Be a detective, we're asking of you. Notice the small holes on the trunk of each tree, Made by something that flies, but it isn't a bee!

WHAT IS IT?

WRITE YOUR QUEST CLUE HERE;

Leave the apple trees, noticing the meadow to the west and look up the hill where you once stood. Can you see the wind-sheared trees from this angle? Cross the creek and the trail will wind back around to the first stop on the rock-lined open drainage where the trail will take you back to where you started.